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SECRETCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Artillery at Vratsa  
25X1APLACE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED  
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.) Nov 1953

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ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. / 5 Jan 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1.

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

1. The artillery barracks is on a little hill about 500 m west of the town, surrounded by barbed wire, and occupying an area of 50 x 250 m. It consists of a two-story staff and office building, two two-story quarters, a one-story quarters, three stables, two garages for guns and a one-story depot building. All the buildings are old and in bad repair.
2. The barracks is occupied by a motorized artillery section, which down to the beginning of 1953 was horse-drawn, then slowly but progressively received its motor equipment. At present the unit has 4 or 5 passenger cars, 6 or 8 German towing units and 12 or 13 trucks.
3. The commander is Capt. (fnu) Kiteveff, a Communist activist formerly a barber, probably using a false name, about 41 years old. There is a staff of 65 men; a staff battery, with a reconnaissance platoon, a communications platoon, a reinforcement column, and a medical group; 1st Battery, 105-110 men, with four 122 mm howitzers and two Maxim heavy machine guns, two Degtyarev light machine guns; 2nd Battery, 94 to 98 men, similarly equipped; 3rd Battery, 90 to 95 men, similarly equipped, commanded by Lt. (fnu) Lipoff; 4th Training Battery, 125 to 130 men, commanded by Lt. (fnu) Diemboff, 24 years old.
4. The most recent recruits arrived in Oct 1952 when 190 to 200 south Bulgarians joined the section. They took basic infantry training until Dec 1952, marching out daily and taking target practice once a week. Morale was generally poor because food was insufficient and the men were not allowed to leave the barracks except for exercises.
5. Near the barracks and 1,000 m northwest of Vratsa is the exercise area, about 1.5 to 2 by 11 to 12 km. It has 10 wooden barracks, a staff building and a small munitions depot. It has permanent gun positions and mobile targets. This fall it was evacuated except for a guard.

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